

## 2010 Back to 2<sup>nd</sup> Division

After the experience of first division where Alexandra struggled because of player depth although there were some extenuating circumstances in season 2009, Alex. were back in second division... It was obvious Alex would need to build up a side of talented young players to be competitive in first division. Keeping the best of the Under 16 and Under 18 players that come through the Junior system was difficult in the present environment. Alexandra remained stable at the administration level and champion former player and recent junior coach Peter McKenzie was appointed senior coach. Alex. had recruited Damien Toomey, Tom Spinks and Patrick Cummins who all impressed early. Young players up from the 18s included the Steiner twins Matthew and Stephen. Peter McKenzie was also prepared to play those like Jake Steyger, Bart Wallace and others who were still eligible to play Under 18s

Alexandra's first trip was to Seville where the home side with forwards Smith and Jones on top proved far too good winning 22.12 to 7.8. Alex were well below full strength but would need to improve. Best: J.Kidd, C.McKay, L.Ragg, K.Davis, D.Toomey and B.Leary.

Alexandra's first home game was as hosts to Yarra Junction. Alex started well but the visitors finished on better and went home with the George Steiner trophy after a twelve point win. 15.10 to 13.10. New player Patrick Cummins with five goals was Alex's best followed by B.Leary, J.Kidd, L.Heard, P.Francis and T.Spinks.

Needing a win to kick-start their season Alex travelled to Yea where they got away to a good start and were able to maintain that lead all game, resulting in their first win since the 2008 grand-final, 14.9 to 10.10. Luke Heard with four goals was always a target up forward. Others to contribute well were S.Steiner, D.Toomey N.Oakley, P.Cummins and T.Spinks.

In the first Alex. V Thornton Eildon clash since the 2009 grand-final, Alex. travelled to Thornton for round four on May day. After an even first half where Thornton Eildon led narrowly at the first change and Alex. similarly at the second, Alex. with a six goal to three third quarter then the first goal of the last, seemed to have established a match winning lead but the home side came back to win by a solitary point. 15.18 to 16.11. S.Kidd, M.Bretherton, Z.Heaslip, N.Oakley, T.Spinks, L.Ware. were considered the better players. Stephen Steiner kicked 3 goals Still smarting from the loss seven days previously Alex. were home to Powelltown for round five and again badly needed a win to keep their season on track. This they achieved quite comfortably eventually after scores were level at half-time. Fourteen goals to five in the second half, made Alex. look quite impressive winning 20.20 to 12.8. Michael Bretherton with 8 goals led the way and caused the Powelltown defence many problems with his height and strength. Others to impress were N.Oakley, K.Davis, S.Kidd, L.Ware and M.Steiner. C.McKay 4 goals

In a strangely mixed up draw Alex were playing Yea for the second time in round six, this time at the Showgrounds. There was little in the scores at the half time break but unlike last week, it was the visitors who took control of the game in the second half, winning comfortably 15.15 to 8.10. Daniel Steel led the way with football skill and courage backed up by the Kidd brothers, Neil Oakley, Zack Heaslip and Tom Spinks in a disappointing effort at home. Under 18 player Brad Tormey kicked 4 goals in the 18's then another 5 in the Reserves against Kinglake and Yea respectively.

An Inter-league game against the Nth Central League at St Arnaud was scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> with the YVMDFNL narrowly winning both the senior game and the Under 18 game. Bart Wallace and Jake Steyger were both selected to represent the Yarra Valley in the U/18s.

Thornton Eildon was the third visitors in succession to enjoy the Showgrounds oval. After an uninspiring but close game, where Thornton Eildon led by 14 points at the two middle breaks, Alex. bridged the gap to level the scores late in the game only to see the visitors snap a goal out of a goal-square scrum and take the points 9.11 to 8.11. Daniel Steel again was in fine form and Damien Toomey's last quarter effort nearly got the side over the line. N.Oakley, Z.Heaslip, C.Jack and Sam Kidd were also good contributors. L.Heard 4 goals.

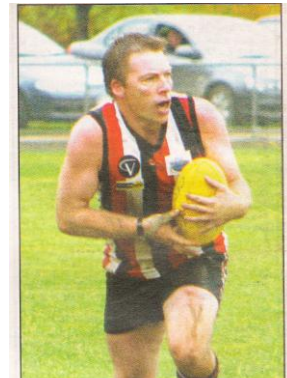
Alexandra were fixtured to play Kinglake on June 5<sup>th</sup> and after losses to the U/18s and Reserves the senior side ran on to the ground but a thick fog had descended on top of the mountain restricting visibility to a few meters. Umpires halted the start for 30 minutes to see if conditions improved, which they did not, then called off the game.

The Rebels resumed after their unscheduled break and were hosts to Seville for round 9 on the Truck Show weekend. After an even first half where Alex. trailed by a goal Seville won the game in the third quarter with seven goals to one. Alex. tried hard in the last qtr. but could not undo the damage failing 10.6 to 15.14. Neil Oakley roved strongly and Daniel Steel also played well. Chris Mullins used his strength to advantage whilst Cory Jack regains more confidence as the season progresses. J.Kidd, T.Spinks and K.Davis also earned praise. In the early game Paul Brooks celebrated his 200<sup>th</sup> game with four goals.

Round 10 saw Alex travel to Yarra Glen on June 19<sup>th</sup> Alex began well with perhaps their best quarter of football for the year against the top side. Stunned; the home side then sprung into action and soon wiped off the lead Alex. had enjoyed and went to a handy lead at half –time. Although Alex. were as hard at the ball as” The Glen” in the second half, they could not match the disposal and finishing of the top side who went on to 19.13 to 13.5 win. Damien Toomey, James Kidd won the votes from Tom Duigan, Michael Bretherton and Matthew Steiner.

Alex then travelled to Yarra Junction and in a low scoring, low standard game Alex held 13 point lead at the main break. The home side outscored Alex. 5 goals to 3, to trail narrowly as teams changed over for the last time. With the Alex defence again back on top, Alex finished the game off better and recorded a 9.10 to 6.7 win. R.Carter, D.Bourke, M.Steiner, D.Steel, S.Kidd and J. Steyger were the award winners. Alex. needed the win but would need to string a series of wins together to get back into finals calculations,

Round 12 on July 3<sup>rd</sup> was Alex’s third encounter with old Waranga rival Yea in a lop sided draw. The Tigers started well and their accuracy gave them a 30 point lead at half-time although shots- at- goal were even. Alex were only able to reduce that margin narrowly during the third quarter and although they had the better of the last term had left themselves too much to do, giving the visitors a 14.9 to 10.19 win. Daniel Steel, Paul Francis, Zack Heaslip were the top three just ahead of Matt Steiner Damien Toomey and Tom Spinks. Long serving player Jason Krijt (right) played his 300<sup>th</sup> game for the club this day. Jason has given the club great service and is a tough, hard at the ball defender, who hates his opponent to have a kick. Co-incidentally his sister, Michelle Jack, also a fine servant of the club, played her 250<sup>th</sup> game of netball the same day.



Alex were home again the next Saturday for round 13, this time to another old rival, also for the third time for the year and probably the last time ever. Alex won the toss and kicked with the wind but wasted many first quarter opportunities whilst Thornton Eildon was also able to goal at the hill end. Thornton Eildon got on top in the second qtr. and went to a 21 point lead as teams returned to the Clubrooms. Alex. in a big third qtr. got on top and led at the last change but knew that the visitors would come again in the last as they did. Scores were tight until late in the term when Thornton Eildon kicked three unanswered goals to win 14.10 to 11.9. Best Sam Kidd and Luke Ware, who always seems to play well against Thornton Eildon, Damien Toomey, Zack Heaslip, Bart Wallace and Steven Steiner.

It was a disappointing third loss to Thornton Eildon, for the club and those who had come along to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1960 premiership. But all those who attended the function later that evening had a great time reminiscing, highlighted by the announcement of a Life Membership for 1960 Coach Ian Alexander.

With five changes to the team, Alex. travelled to Emerald for round 14 on July 17<sup>th</sup> to take on the Bombers for the first and only time for the year. The home side went to a big lead in the conditions by half time and although Alex. was better after half –time, they were never able to get into a winning position. Best: M.Bretherton (3), R.Carter, T.Spinks, B.Wallace, Z.Heaslip, J.Leary,

Alexandra next travelled half way to Gippsland to take on Belgrave at Narre Warren East. Belgrave started the better leading six goals to two by the first change of ends. The game then became a battle of the defences in the mud as Alex tried to reduce the margin. Alex had a better second half but as had happened a few times this year, had given a start, then had to play “catch up footy” The “home” side had enough in reserve to hold on and win 10.10 to 8.5. Tom Spinks who had proved to be a good acquisition, Jack Elkington, Michael Bretherton, Stephen Steiner, Andrew Moravski and Jason Krijt. Jake Steyger 3 goals.

Another away trip, this time to Powelltown was round 16 for Alex. Again the Rebels failed to convert first quarter opportunities and put some scoreboard pressure on their opponents. One goal six was a poor return for effort. The Demons were much more efficient in the second qtr. and led by 5goals at the main break. Alex broke even after half-time but that was not good enough to overhaul the lead Powelltown had built up. Every time Alex. challenged the more accurate home side answered, going on to win 15.5.to 10.12. Best: C.Jack, M.Bretherton, N.Oakley (3), J.Elkington, D.Steel, S.Kidd.

Alexandra were back on the Showgrounds after a month to play Kinglake and enjoyed the local surroundings as they put on one of their better efforts of the season. Although the scores were close all game with Alex. holding a slight lead throughout the first half. Kinglake got on top in the third term but Alex fought back with a seven goal last qtr. to win a close game against third placed Kinglake 17.8 to 16.8. Daniel Steel (2) Michael Bretherton, Damien Toomey (2) led the way with James Kidd, Cory Jack (3) and Stephen Steiner also playing well. C.McKay 3 goals.

Members of the 1980 Senior and Reserve teams were in attendance and stayed on for an enjoyable function in the evening to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of those successes.

The last game of the season for the seniors was a home match against top side Yarra Glen. Alex had a good first quarter into the strong wind as usual favouring the town end but were not able to use the wind as well in the second term to trail by 20 points at half time. The league leaders built up their lead in the third quarter and although Alex tried hard in the last qtr. the Thunder had a comfortable win prior to the finals. 12.18 to 7.10. Best were Damien Toomey, Daniel Steel, Zack Heaslip, Stephen Steiner, Ryan Carter and Cory Jack (2) The latter playing his 250<sup>th</sup> game for the club. Cory epitomizes what loyalty and commitment means to a country football / netball club coming back from a knee injury that would have ended the career of a less dedicated player. Cory leads by example both on and off the field.

Members of the 2000 premiership team celebrated at a function organised by John Westwood and his committee that evening.

## Finals

Reserves Elimination Final at Warburton; Alex. 4.4.28 lost to Emerald 13.10.88. Goals: G.Miller, B.Heard, S.Clarke, J.Heyes. Best: L.Ragg, B.Wallace, G.Miller P.Wandmaker, G.Miller and L.Russell.

Under 18s Elimination Final at Warburton; Alex. 4.8.32 lost to Kinglake 8.7.55 Goals: B.Tormey 3.P.Wallis, Best: Z. Vincent, B.Wallace, S.Woolard, B.McDonald, P.Wallis and S.Graham.

## NETBALL

B Grade Qual Final: P'town 49 d Alex. 26; First Semi. Alex. 51 d Yarra J 26. P.Final Yea d Alex.

C Grade Qual Final: P'Town 25 d Alex. 14; First Semi. Seville 25 d Alex. 20.

## Club Presentations and Awards.

At the Presentation night at the Mt Pleasant Hotel on October 2<sup>nd</sup> Awards and trophies were presented to Presidents Trophies (Football) Luke Heard. (Netball) Lucy Wallis. Trainers Trophy: Lauren Steyger. Barry (Sprague) Thompson Best Clubman Award: Andrew and Sandra Whitling. Jason Krijt was awarded Life Membership upon playing 300 games whilst Service Certificates were presented to Cory Jack, Michelle Jack, Sue Haggis (250games) Paul Brooks (200), Jeremy Heyes, Chris Mullins (150) Paul Francis, Peter Wandmaker, Peter Hoornweg (100)

## FOOTBALL Seniors / Reserves / Under 18s

*Best & Fairest*, Alan Jane / Stan Mackrell / Lyn Stillman *Memorial trophies*: Daniel Steel / Grant Miller / Jake Steyger *Runner up*: Damien Toomey / Lee Ragg / Sam Woolard. *Most Consistent*: Tom Spinks / Michael Mawson / Bart Wallace. *Most Determined*: Sam Kidd / Peter Wandmaker / Jason Shaw. *Most Improved*: Michael Bretherton / Roger Welch / Zack Vincent. *Best 1<sup>st</sup> Year*: Stephen Steiner / Jack Wallace / Brent McDonald, Paul Wallace, Ben Woolard. *Best Utility*: NA / NA / Shaun Graham. *Coaches Trophy*: Ryan Carter / Zack Vincent / Michael Coombs. *Leading Goalkicker*: Michael Bretherton (21) / Brian Heard (16) / James Heveren (26)

## NETBALL A / B / C grade

*Best & Fairest*. Casey Munro *Memorial Trophy* /-/-/. Jess Evans / Jo McCullough / Tess Malcolm. *Runner Up*: Loren Miller / Sue Haggis, Darcy Smith / Sharon Hedger, Kim Williams. *Most Improved*: Elle McDonald / NA / Mikaela Rennie. *Most Determined*: NA / Lauren Steyger / NA. *Coaches Trophy*: Brooke Davis / Sally Krijt / Tara Carter.

## SDJFNL. Junior Presentation night

### Football Under16 / Under 14 / Under 12

*Best & Fairest:* Mark Goonan / Mick McCarty / --- *Memorial Trophies:* Campbell Smedley / Tom Halligan / Jordan Purcell. *Runner-up:* Conner Heaslip / Ben Wallis / Harrison Murdoch. *Most Consistent:* Ben Woolard / Timothy Shaw / Jasper Rouget. *Most Determined:* Brent McDonald / Mitch McDonald / Isaac Hedger. *Best 1st Year:* Ryley Norris / Ethan Richie / Nathan Stewart. *Coaches Trophy:* Tom Keating / Brad Heveren / Nathan Keath. *Leading goal-kicker:* Jed Hamill (34) / Nathan Quincee (17) / Nathan Keath (16).

### Netball Under 16 / Under 14 / Under 12.

*Best and Fairest:* Lauren Steyger / Kate Evans / Rebecca Wallis. *Runner-up:* Meg Bonsema / Jayde Cairns / Bethany Cairns. *Most Determined:* Rachael McDonald / Sasha Mason / Chelsea Skerritt. *Most Improved:* Tara Rogerson / Eliza Murdoch / Soibaun Carpenter. *Coaches Trophy:* Kathryn Veldman / Kimberly Shaw / Lily Cox.

### SDJFNL Finals

U/16 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Alex. 13.6 d Yea 8.10  
2<sup>nd</sup> Semi St Mary's 12.9 d B'ford 10.5  
Prelim Final B'ford 11.10 d Alex. 9.8  
Grand Final St Mary's 17.10 d b'ford 10.7  
Netball Alex. d St Mary's

#### SDJFNL Awards (Alexandra )

Under 12 Best & Fairest: Bethany Cairns

Runner-up: Rebecca Wallis

Under 14 Best & Fairest: Jayde Cairns

U/14 1<sup>st</sup> Semi B'Ford 7.1 d Yea 6.3  
2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Euroa 16.7 d H'cote 0.1  
Prelim Final H'cote 5.1 d B'ford 2.8  
Grand Final Euroa 13.9 d H'cote 2.2  
Netball St Mary's d Seymour

U/12 1<sup>st</sup> Semi Yea 3.6 d B'ford 2.8  
2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Euroa 17.10 d Tabilk 0.3  
Prelim Final Yea 7.2 d Tabilk 6.2  
Grand Final Euroa 12.7 d Yea 2.5  
Netball Alex. d St Mary's